

WE CLAIM:

1. A method for providing printing scale control with respect to a digital source image which is associated with a related, validated, data-content flag that describes the actual size of the image in terms of dots-per-inch, and number of bits, comprising

examining such a source image to detect the presence of such a flag, and  
on detecting such a flag, using the information contained in it to control printed image size.

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2. A method for providing printing scale control with respect to a digital image described by a data file having a known dots-per-inch characteristic, and a known total number of bits, comprising

associating with the image data file a validated data-content flag which describes the image in terms of its dots-per-inch characteristic and its total number of bits,

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sending this image data file along with the associated data-content flag en route to a printer,

within that route, and upstream from the printer, detecting the presence of the flag, and

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utilizing the information contained in the flag to control printed image size.

3. Apparatus for providing printing scale control with respect to a digital source image which is associated with a related, validated, data-content flag that describes the actual size of the image in terms of dots-per-inch, and number of bits,  
5 comprising  
examining structure for examining such a source image to detect the presence of such a flag, and  
flag using structure operatively connected to said examining structure and operable, on the examining structure detecting the presence of such a flag, to use the  
10 information contained in that flag to control printed image size.

4. Apparatus for providing printing scale control with respect to a digital image which is described by a data file having a known dots-per-inch characteristic, and known total number of bits, said apparatus comprising

5 associating structure for associating with such an image data file a validated data-content flag which describes the image in terms of its dot-per-inch characteristic and its total number of bits,

sending structure operatively associated with said associating structure operable, following the performance of said associating structure, to send the image data file along  
10 with the associated data-content flag en route to a printer,

operatively disposed within that route, and upstream from the printer, detecting apparatus for detecting the presence of the associated flag, and

utilizing structure operatively connected to said detecting structure for utilizing the information contained in the flag to control printed image size.